

Report of the auditor-general to the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature and the council on Siyancuma Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Siyancuma Local Municipality set out on pages X to X which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Siyancuma Local Municipality as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2017 (Act No. 3 of 2017) (Dora).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this auditor's report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with sections 290 and 291 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* and, parts 1 and 3 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA codes) as well as the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA codes.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Material uncertainty relating to going concern

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.
7. I draw attention to the statement of financial performance in the financial statements, which indicates that the municipality incurred a net loss of R10 394 184 during the year ended 30 June 2019. This event, along with other matters as set forth in note 54, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern.

Emphasis of matters

8. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

9. As disclosed in note 37 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2018 were restated as a result of errors in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Material losses – trade debtors

10. As disclosed in note 29 to the financial statements, material losses of R12 002 390 were incurred as a result of a write-off of irrecoverable trade debtors.

Material losses – electricity

11. As disclosed in note 44.4 to the financial statements, material electricity losses of 6 509 824 Kwh (2017-2018: 6 476 788 Kwh) was incurred, which represents 21,31% (2017-2018 21,30.%) of total electricity purchased.

Underspending of conditional grants

12. As disclosed in note 22.9 to the financial statements, the municipality materially underspent on conditional grants by R4 593 459. The underspending is as a result of a feasibility study not performed for Campbell oxidation project.

Other matters

13. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unaudited disclosure notes (MFMA 125)

14. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA), the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

15. The supplementary information set out on pages XX to XX does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. We have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, We do not express an opinion thereon.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

16. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and the Dora and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

17. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

18. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial statements.
19. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report

Performance information reporting

20. I was unable to audit the usefulness and reliability of the performance information, as the annual performance report of the municipality was not prepared as required by section 46 of the Municipal Systems Act of South Africa, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) (Municipal Systems Act) and section 121(3)(c) of the MFMA.

Report on the audit of compliance with legislation

Introduction and scope

21. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
22. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

Annual financial statements

23. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA. Material misstatements identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statement were subsequently corrected and the supporting records were provided subsequently, resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Expenditure management

24. Money owed by the municipality was not always paid within 30 days, as required by section 65(2)(e) of the MFMA.

25. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent unauthorised expenditure amounting to R33 084 032, as disclosed in note 44.1 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the unauthorised expenditure was caused by overspending of the budget per vote.
26. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R15 600 118, as disclosed in note 44.2 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the disclosed fruitless and wasteful expenditure was caused by interest and penalties charged on late payments to suppliers.
27. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R14 045 883 as disclosed in note 44.3 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance with supply chain management regulations.

Strategic planning and performance management

28. The Service delivery and Budget Implementation Plan(SDBIP) for the year under review did not include the service delivery targets and performance indicators for each quarter as required by section 1 of the MFMA.
29. KPIs were not set for each of the development priorities and objectives, as required by section 41(1)(a) of the MSA and municipal planning and performance management reg 9(1)(a).
30. A performance management system was not established, as required by section 38(a) of the MSA.

Procurement and contract management

31. Goods and services with a transaction value of below R200 000 were procured without obtaining the required price quotations, in contravention of by SCM regulation 17(a) and (c). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
32. The preference point system was not applied to procurement of goods and services above R30 000 as required by section 2(a) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
33. The performance of some of the contractors or providers was not monitored on a monthly basis, as required by section 116(2)(b) of the MFMA. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
34. Quotations were accepted from bidders who did not submit a declaration on whether they are employed by the state or connected to any person employed by the state, as required by SCM regulation 13(c). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
35. Quotations were accepted from bidders whose tax matters had not been declared by the South African Revenue Service to be in order, in contravention of SCM regulation 43. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

Human resource management

36. Appropriate systems and procedures to monitor, measure and evaluate performance of staff were not developed and adopted, as required by section 67(1)(d) of the MSA.

Consequence management

37. Unauthorised expenditure incurred by the municipality was not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(a) of the MFMA.
38. Unauthorised expenditure were certified by council as irrecoverable without having conducted an investigation to determine the recoverability of the expenditure, in contravention of section 32(2)(a)(ii) of the MFMA.
39. Irregular expenditure incurred by the municipality was not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.
40. Losses resulting from irregular expenditure were certified by council as irrecoverable without having conducted an investigation to determine the recoverability of the expenditure, in contravention of section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.
41. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred by the municipality was not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.
42. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure were certified by council as irrecoverable without having conducted an investigation to determine the recoverability of the expenditure, in contravention of section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.

Other information

43. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report.
44. My opinion on the financial statements and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
45. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
46. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

47. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the unqualified opinion and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
48. Leadership did not exercise oversight responsibility regarding financial and performance reporting and compliance and related internal controls, resulting in the material misstatements per the financial statements together with material non-compliance findings.
49. Leadership did not act on a timeous basis to internal audit's recommendations or reports thereby impacting their effectiveness as an assurance provider to the leadership of the municipality.
50. The municipality did not have sufficient monitoring controls to ensure the proper implementation of the overall process of planning, budgeting, implementation and reporting on financial and performance of municipality.
51. The municipality did not have documented and approved internal policies and procedures to address the process of collecting, recording, processing, monitoring and reporting performance information.
52. The municipality did not develop and implement proper performance planning and management practices to provide for the development of performance indicators and targets.
53. The municipality does not have an IT strategic plan that supports business requirements and ensures that IT spending remains in line with the approved IT strategic plan.
54. The municipality did not have processes in place for the independent reviews of activities of the person responsible for granting users access to the network, application systems and performance reporting systems.

Auditor-General

Kimberley

28 November 2019



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor’s report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
 - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality’s internal control
 - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the accounting officer
 - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Siyancuma Local Municipality’s ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease continuing as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.